

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2003**

PRESENT: THOMAS C. REYNOLDS JR, CHAIRMAN; DOUGLAS R. COOK, Co CHAIRMAN, BRIAN MCDONALD, SELECTMAN; LEON G. METHOT, SELECTMAN; LAURA PETRAIN, SELECTMAN.

GUEST: Margo C. McLeod, Rodman Wilson, Gordon Williams, Roy H. Blanchett, Newell Bailey, Denise Dorey, Matt Pelletier, Frank Campana, Brad Macauley, Marjorie Burke, Donald Burke, Stephen Abbott, Craig Knowles, Terry Knowles, Westley Dunham, Scott Dinsmore, Walter Bohlin, Sherry Butt Dunham, Evelyn M. Connor, Ray Stankunal, Robert H. Fryer, Robert Richards, Carl S. Knapp, Pat Gareri, Joanna Gareri, Alice Morris, Paul Marsh, Robert Christenson, Myles Rigney, Chad Clark, Spencer Gelinis, Erin Silva, Violet Gelinis, David Gelinis, Kelley Gelinis, Mark Bluteau, Forrest Esenwine, Ginger Esenwine, Chris Bolton, Neal Kurk.

The Selectmen's Meeting was held at the Town Office Building. Chairman McDonald commenced the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman McDonald asked that everyone stand for the pledge of allegiance.

1. SWEAR IN OFFICERS & COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Board began meeting by swearing in all new Officers and Selectmen. Ms. Evelyn M. Connor swore in newly elected town officials. Ms. Evelyn M. Connor then swore in newly elected Selectmen.

2. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman McDonald made motion to enter into nonpublic session at 6:40 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (b). Seconded by Selectman Methot. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman McDonald – yes;

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Selectman Methot – yes; Selectman Reynolds – yes; Selectman Petrain – yes; Selectman Cook – yes. Motion was passed unanimously.

Board met with Chief Rigney and new officer candidate, Spencer Gelinas. Review of application file.

Selectman Reynolds made motion to come out of nonpublic session at 6:50 p.m. Seconded by Chairman McDonald. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman McDonald – yes; Selectman Methot – yes; Selectman Reynolds – yes; Selectman Petrain – yes; Selectman Cook – yes. Motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman McDonald made motion to hire Spencer Gelinas as Police Officer for the Town of Weare. Seconded by Selectman Methot. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Evelyn M. Connor swore in new Police Officer, Spencer Gelinas.

Chairman McDonald took a moment to thank former Board of Selectmen and thank the public and town employees. Chairman McDonald made motion to nominate Selectman Reynolds as new Board of Selectmen Chairman. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously. Thomas C. Reynolds Jr. is new Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman McDonald then made a motion to nominate Selectman Cook as Co Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. Selectman Petrain asked the reason a co-chair was needed. Selectman McDonald stated it was helpful with a five member board. A vote was taken. Motion passed 4 in favor, 1 opposed (Selectman Petrain).

Chairman Reynolds then went over committee assignments. Cable Committee – Chairman Reynolds and Selectman Cook. Conservation Commission – Selectman Petrain. Park and Recreation Committee – Selectman McDonald. Economic Development Committee – Entire Board of Selectmen. Benefit Review Committee – Selectman Petrain.

Chairman Reynolds assigned supervisors/liaisons for town departments. Selectmen Office – Selectman McDonald. Highway – Selectman Petrain. Police Department – Selectman Cook. Building –

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Chairman Reynolds. Tax Collector and Town Clerk – Selectman Methot. Finance – Selectman McDonald. Fire Department – Chairman Reynolds. Planning – Selectman Methot.

Selectman McDonald made motion that any request from board members should go through supervisor of said department. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. Selectman Petrain asked for clarification on this matter and asked if a copy of the Police Department contracts was an example and would it go through Selectman Cook? Selectman McDonald answered, yes. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joanna Gareri – Ms. Gareri stated that she went over the minutes of the last Board of Selectmen meeting and requested the board consider some points before approval. Ms. Gareri stated on page 8, under old business, there were a number of inaccuracies. First, Ms. Gareri stated that no one from the Trustees of Trust Funds ever said that the Selectmen should move funds from one capital reserve fund to another. Second, when the Trustees requested the vouchers for the withdrawals from the capital reserve funds they were not looking for Bolton Field, they already knew about Bolton Field and were obligated to check everything else. Also, Ms. Gareri stated that the minutes read that the Trustees have approached the DRA and feel confident there will be no problem, and the Trustees never stated there would be no problem. Went on to state that the Trustees did not approach the DRA with any issues, they were looking for clarification. Stated that she hopes this clarifies some things within the minutes and hopes the Board will review the tape before approving them.

Sherry Butt Dunham – Ms. Butt Dunham stated that she wished to respond to comments made by Mr. Forrest Esenwine regarding the media when he turned over duties of the Police Commission to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Butt Dunham read a statement in response to media comments. Statement entered into public record. Selectman Cook responded to Ms. Butt Dunham by stating that his biggest issue is facts that are not correct or numbers that are not correct. Ms. Butt Dunham then stated that her facts are always correct and her numbers

are always correct. Selectman Cook disagreed and stated that he can go back and find articles in which budget numbers are wrong or mathematical errors have been made. Selectman Cook then questioned Ms. Butt Dunham as to what she thought the proper procedure for informing the public of errors should be. Stated that the board has an obligation to reach out to the public that has read incorrect information in an article and inform them of the facts. Ms. Butt Dunham stated that if an error is made, then she should be called and she will request help in wording the correction for the paper. Stated that the corrections are not buried, they are always on the inside on page two. Stated that there is a procedure to follow and that is all she is asking of the Board.

Forrest Esenwine – Mr. Esenwine stated that that he did not mention any particular news media in his comments. Stated that there were headline seeking newspapers, and never inferred that Ms. Butt Dunham's newspaper was one of them. Stated that he has even told Ms. Butt Dunham personally that he appreciated her honesty in reporting and has found it to be accurate and true. Stated that he is led to believe that all news media are to be lumped in one category, and that category is untouchable. Stated that Ms. Butt Dunham was not involved in his statement whatsoever. Stated that he does not think that Ms. Butt Dunham is looking at the situation in a realistic way, that she is saying that newspapers can write whatever they want and nobody should question it, and if that be the case, he does not believe they should question any public official. Does not believe there should be two sets of values. Newspapers should not be able to print facts that are untrue and then hold themselves above questioning.

Sherry Butt Dunham – Ms. Butt Dunham stated that the news media is not as untouchable as Mr. Esenwine may think. Stated that public officials put themselves out there to be open to criticism. Stated there is a proper procedure to address issues, and that is to make a phone call. The proper procedure is to not make a political statement condemning all news media. Stated that the news media holds public officials accountable, they do not hold the news media accountable. Stated if a call is made to the paper to report inaccuracies, they will get a correction out, that's how it works.

Jonathan Wallace - Mr. Wallace gave board paperwork regarding personnel policy. Stated he also wanted to make a comment regarding the newspapers. Stated that Ms. Butt Dunham has done a great job reporting on town business. Went on to state that reporters do not always have control over the headlines or how their work is edited. Stated that if there is any animosity towards the press, he feels that a lot of it is justified, not in Ms. Butt Dunham's case, but the local paper has gone overboard with its criticism of politicians in this town. Feels that the extent to which the Weare Free Press takes its criticism is horrible. Mr. Wallace stated he also wanted to comment on the Interim Growth Management Article. Stated that there has been a lot of talk regarding growth management. There has been insinuations that growth management has never come to pass due to lack of support from the Board of Selectmen and individuals on the Planning Board that are in construction. Stated that it has been said that the people have to have their right to vote. Now they have had their right to vote and as we know, it failed. As did any attempt to enlarge lot sizes. Stated he thinks it's obvious where this town wants to go and is hoping the board will continue to lead us down that path. Which is a path to the twenty-first century, not the late nineteenth century. It's a fact, that ninety percent of the people in this town are of the age of 54 or under and what that equates to, to him, is that this is a family town. They do not see growth as an issue. We need to balance residential growth along with commercial growth.

Denise Dorey – Ms. Dorey stated that she had a question regarding the default budget. Stated that last year all the department heads received a bonus instead of a raise. Since this is a onetime expenditure, Ms. Dorey questioned the Board if this amount was taken out of the budget. Board answered no. Selectman Cook stated that amount was from surplus. Ms. Dorey stated that the amount should have been deleted from budgetary amount. Selectman Cook disagreed.

Neal Kurk – Mr. Kurk stated he would like to welcome the new members of the Board of Selectmen and wish them well. Stated that they have had three years of a great deal of antagonism between Board of Selectmen and the public. Went on to state that he is looking forward to a kinder, gentler Board where they, as individuals can feel that their integrity is respected by the Board. One where they can

come and talk about particular issues and feel comfortable and not have to worry about anything else.

Evelyn M. Connor – Ms. Connor requested a nonpublic session with the Board. Chairman Reynolds and Selectman Cook both agreed that this was not the time and there was a lot on the agenda. Stated that later in the evening would be more appropriate. Ms. Connor then stated she wanted to take this opportunity to remind the public to license their dogs. Also Ms. Connor wanted to thank the election workers.

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Richards requested a cell phone for rescue one. Stated they find themselves stuck on a scene with only his personal cell phone. Gave Board price of phone and stated he will take care of service charge out of the operating budget. Stated he wishes to use the Capital Reserve Communications Fund for the installation and equipment. Stated that the estimate is \$127.49. Selectman McDonald made motion to authorize the Fire Department to make a purchase of cell phones for rescue one. Seconded by Selectman Methot. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously. Chief Richards then informed the Board of the cost of the new fire truck. Stated that the Fire Board made a recommendation to go with the company that stated a cost of \$258,190.00. Stated that if a contract could be signed this week, it will take four months for the chassis, and then an additional sixty working days to have it installed. Selectman Cook asked how much they will have to put down. Chief Richards stated that the price of \$258,190.00 is with \$100,000.00 down and balance due on delivery. Chairman Reynolds questioned as to the cost of additional equipment. Chief Richards stated that he is looking for \$270,000.00 total for truck and equipment. Selectman Cook informed Chief Richards that of the \$280,000.00 in the article, \$15,000.00 is for a new ambulance, which leaves \$265,000.00. Chief Richards stated that the figures did not come in as expected which is why the total cost is over \$265,000.00 and hopes to make up the difference from ambulance billing over time. Selectman Methot made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign proposal of \$172,885.00 excluding the chassis. Seconded by Selectman McDonald. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously. Selectman Methot then made motion to authorize the Fire Chief to sign

contract for the chassis not to exceed \$83,810.00. Seconded by Selectman McDonald. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously. Selectman McDonald made motion for \$10,000.00 for the finalizing of the fire truck and equipment needed as the Fire Chief feels appropriate. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. Selectman Cook stated he would like to go on record stating he is in favor of the equipment, but would like to stay within the planned budget. Selectman Methot stated he agreed with Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion was passed 4 in favor, 1 opposed (Selectman Cook).

5. COMPUTER ISSUES

Mr. Jonathan Wallace informed Board that virus software is needed. Feels it is appropriate to purchase the software as well as subscribing to virus control for the future. Stated the figure is around \$700.00. Selectman Cook questioned if this cost includes installation. No, does not include installation. Mr. Wallace suggested Board make a motion to expend up to \$800.00 to include installation for the time being and if more is needed they will come to the Board at that time. Also addressed the Board regarding on-line payment options for the town. Stated that he will get information together and feels it will come to somewhere around \$1000.00. Mr. Wallace then stated that he would like to see more documents available on-line. Selectman McDonald made motion to authorize spending up to \$800.00 from Computer Equipment and the Computer Maintenance Capital Reserve Funds for virus control software. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Wallace discussed placing the web page on the old server and it being located in this building.

6. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Carl Knapp requested Boards approval for posting roads for 6 ton limit. Presented Board with list of roads and stated it is the same list as last year. Selectman Methot made motion to approve posting. Seconded by Selectman Petrain. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Knapp then presented Board with bid postings to approve and requested that they all be due on April 7, 2003, and to be opened at Board of Selectmen meeting on April 7, 2003. Selectman

Methot made motion to approve bid postings. Seconded by Selectman Petrain. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously.

7. GRAVEL PERMIT ISSUE

Mr. Chris Bolton requested Board withdraw notification for permit renewal. Stated that state laws grants him exemption from yearly renewal due to his grandfather status. Mr. Bolton and Board had lengthy discussion on his grand-fathered status and permit renewal. Selectman McDonald made motion to withdraw Mr. Bolton's notification for permit renewal. Seconded by Selectman Methot. Selectman Cook stated that the Board may want to consult legal council before making this decision. A vote was taken. Motion was passed 3 in favor, 2 abstentions (Selectman Cook, Chairman Reynolds).

8. UPGRADE TO CLASS V ROAD

Mr. Art Siciliano addressed Board regarding an upgrade on road from Class VI to Class V. Board directed Mr. Siciliano to Mr. Stankunas to go over proper procedure and process in this matter.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Discretionary Easement -

Selectman McDonald wanted to inform new Board members of discussions with the Board regarding discretionary easement for golf course. Selectman McDonald stated that he thinks Board should grant ten years current use tax rate. Stated there are potential employment opportunities for the town with this project. Selectman McDonald made motion to grant discretionary easement for Marlene Grossman and Bill Weber for their golf course. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously.

Building Maintenance -

Selectman McDonald stated that he is meeting with new custodian and Mr. Noss, a past custodian the following day to go over where things are in the building.

Master Plan -

Selectman Cook discussed the master plan article with the Board and his hopes that it passes and the fact that the meetings regarding it should include more of the town.

Default Budget -

Selectman Cook then discussed the default budget with the Board. Stated the only departments he sees a huge discrepancy in are the Fire and the Police Departments. Stated that the Board's department is off about \$10,000 which is the money for minutes transcriber.

Trustees of the Trust Funds -

Selectman Cook then addressed the issue of the Trustee of the Trust Funds and asked the Board for ideas on getting them to release the funds. Selectman Methot volunteered to meet with the Trustees to discuss this issue.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Media Relations Officer -

Selectman McDonald stated that he would like to incorporate a media relations officer to deal with the comings and goings of questions and comments and would like this to be a responsibility of the Administrative Coordinator. Stated that he feels this is important to resolve the problem of many department heads or employees trying to track down the same information. Selectman McDonald made motion to have the Administrative Coordinator have the sub-title of Media Relations Officer. Seconded by Selectman Methot. Ms. Butt Dunham requested permission to ask a question. She stated that she is a daily newspaper and does not have the time to wait around for someone to answer her question at leisure. Stated that she always goes directly to the person she has a question for, and it is answered and is a very quick process. Asked the Board if now she will no longer be able to contact the Board directly. Some of the Board agreed that they are exempt from this policy and if she would like to contact a department head directly, it can be done at the end of the workday, after 5:00 p.m. Selectman Cook explained that this will hopefully improve communication while at the same time allowing town employees to perform their jobs without interruption. Selectman Petrain stated that if it is a simple matter of copying meeting minutes that any employee

should be able to do this. Ms. Evelyn Connor then stated that she is the record keeper for the town and should not have to go to Mr. Stankunas for permission to release meeting minutes. Board was in agreement that Ms. Connor, as a town official, is the exception. Ms. Butt Dunham expressed her objection to this policy. Stated that she will continue to contact whomever she feels is necessary to report the news. Ms. Butt Dunham requested the Board think about this some more before they vote on it, and left the meeting. Chairman Reynolds stated he would like to see the Police and Fire Department, as well as Ms. Evelyn Connor exempt from this policy due to the nature of their positions. Selectman Methot withdrew his second. Selectman McDonald withdrew his original motion and made motion to make Administrative Coordinator a Media Relation Officer with the exception of the Police Department, Fire Department, and any record request of the Town Clerk. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion failed with 2 in favor (Selectman McDonald, Selectman Cook), 3 opposed.

Cable Committee Appointments -

Selectman McDonald made motion to appoint Mr. Jonathan Wallace to the Cable Committee. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously.

Conservation Commission Appointments -

Selectman Methot made motion to appoint Mr. Paul L. Naves to the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously.

Parks and Recreation Committee Appointments -

Chairman Reynolds made motion to appoint Mr. Gorge Bougher to the Park and Recreation Committee. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman McDonald – yes; Selectman Cook – yes; Chairman Reynolds – yes; Selectman Methot – yes; Selectman Petrain – yes. Motion was passed unanimously.

Cable Committee Appointments -

Selectman McDonald made motion to appoint Chief Rigney to the Cable Committee. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously.

Cable Committee Appointments -

Selectman McDonald made motion to appoint Chief Richards to the Cable Committee. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman McDonald – yes; Selectman Cook – yes; Chairman Reynolds – yes; Selectman Methot – yes; Selectman Petrain – yes. Motion was passed unanimously.

Meetings with SAU -

Selectman Methot expressed desire to restart monthly meetings with the SAU. Board agreed. Selectman Cook suggested that Selectman Methot's first mission be getting the SAU to cooperate with the Capital Improvements Program. Selectman Methot agreed.

Department Head Meetings -

Selectman Methot suggested that the departments restart department head meetings.

Administrative Coordinator -

Selectman Petrain asked Board if there was a formal job description for the Administrative Coordinator. Chairman Reynolds stated that there is nothing formal yet, it is a work in progress.

Request to Release of Non Public Meeting Minutes -

Selectman Cook stated that he felt it would be proper if Selectman Petrain set the record straight and release the nonpublic minutes pertaining to her voluntary resignation. Stated that he feels this is important to make the public aware of the circumstances that led up to the voluntary resignation and also important so the Board is not blamed for forcing someone out. Selectman Petrain stated that she has not read the nonpublic minutes and cannot release them without knowing if they are accurate. Selectman Cook requested that Selectman Petrain read the nonpublic minutes and release them. Selectman Petrain stated she will consider it.

Manifests -

Chairman Reynolds moved for the Board of Selectmen to sign Manifest and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated March 20, 2003 for a total of \$29,849.10 for Accounts Payable, \$22,096.53 for Gross Payrolls, for a

grand total of \$51,945.63. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes -

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to accept meeting minutes for January 13, 2003 and January 27, 2003. Seconded by Selectman McDonald. A vote was taken. Motion was passed 4 in favor, 1 abstention (Selectman Methot).

11. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Reynolds made motion to enter into nonpublic session at 10:29 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (c). Seconded by Selectman Methot. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman McDonald – yes; Selectman Cook – no; Chairman Reynolds – yes; Selectman Methot – yes; Selectman Petrain – yes. Motion was passed 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

In Attendance: Selectman Cook, Selectman McDonald, Chairman Reynolds, Selectman Methot, Selectman Petrain, Kelly Bumpus.

Chairman Reynolds mad motion to come out of nonpublic session at 10:46 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman McDonald – yes; Selectman Cook – yes; Chairman Reynolds – yes; Selectman Methot – yes; Selectman Petrain – yes. Motion was passed unanimously.

Selectman Petrain made motion to seal and restrict the minutes of the nonpublic session pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3 III. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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Selectman Methot made motion to adjourn at 11:10 p.m. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A True Record

Kelly Bumpus, Recording Secretary